

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **add** the following new paragraph on page 1 of the application, after the title:

-- This is a 371 of PCT/GB00/01233 which claims benefit of priority of Application number GB 0007596.2 filed in the United Kingdom on 4/01/1999. --

Please **replace** the paragraph starting at page 3, second line from the bottom of the page, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The full botanical name of *Palmaria palmate* is Algae Rhodophycota Rhodophyceae Palmariales Palmariaceae. Common names include [Dulsk] Dulse, Dillisk, Soel, Darusu, Goemon. A review of the chemical constituents of the red alga *Palmaria palmate* is published in Economic Botany 34(1), 1980, pp 27-50. This discloses at page 36 that the major polysaccharide is a water-soluble xylan composed of $\beta - (1 \rightarrow 3)$ and $\beta - (1 \rightarrow 4)$ and linked D-xylose units which contain no sulphate ester or methoxyl groups. The carbohydrate fraction of *Palmaria palmate* contains easily soluble polysaccharides and more fibre like polymers which act similarly to cellulose. It is possible to fractionate the carbohydrates found in *Palmaria palmate* by extraction/precipitation.--